

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 30, 2004. Claims 38-74 are pending in the Application. Claims 38, 50, 52, 55-57, 69, 71, and 74 stand rejected and Claims 39-49, 51, 53-54, 58-68, 70, 72, and 73 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 38, 39, 41-43, 46, 53, 54, 57, 58, 60-62, 65, and 72-74 are amended by the present Amendment.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claims 38, 50, 52, 55-57, 69, 71, and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kanome (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,427, hereinafter "Kanome").

Applicants thank Examiners Hai Pham and Lam Nguyen for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on June 29, 2004. During the interview, Amendments to the claims as herein presented were proposed, and arguments as hereinafter developed were presented.

As explained during the personal interview, Kanome implements bi-directional printing position adjustment using a nozzle print inclination correction value and a reciprocal print position correction value. (See, for example, Kanome, col. 9, lines 49-51). As such, the print inclination correction value is used only in correcting inclination of nozzles in the print head in each of the forward pass and the backward pass to vertically align the dots, while the reciprocal print position correction value is used to align the lines printed in the forward and backward passes. (See, for example, Kanome, col. 8, line 42 to col. 9, line 52).

To the contrary, the present invention uses a reference correction value and a relative position correction value to obtain a bi-directional print position adjustment value to reduce printing positional deviation arising between forward and reverse main scanning passes.

Examiner Nguyen noted on the interview summary (form PTOL-413) that “applicants’ representative explained the difference between the relative correction value cited in the claims and the inclination correction value cited in the reference. The Applicants’ representative proposed to amend the claims to clarify the language of the term “the relative correction value” to refer to “relative position correction value.” The Examiner confirmed that the proposed amendment would overcome the reference.”

Applicants have herein amended the term “relative correction value” to read “relative position correction value” in all applicable claims. Based at least on the foregoing discussion and the results of the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation rejection is now moot. Its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

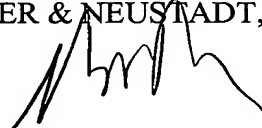
Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 38-74 is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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